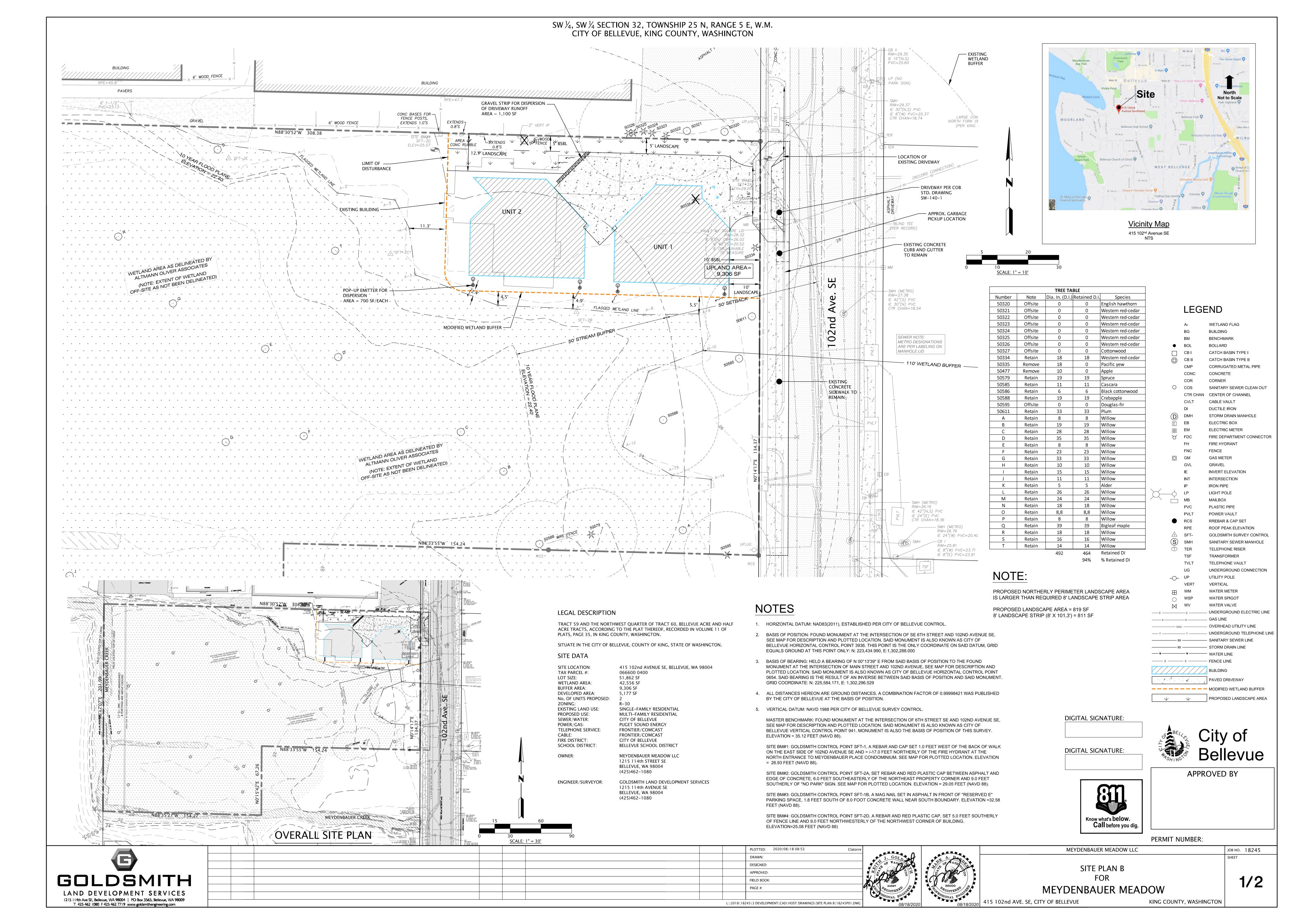
VICINITY MAP 00TH AVE NE Downtown City Parks Park Parcels BELLEVUE WAY 103RD AVE NE Meydenbauer NE 1ST ST Bay AVE Park 02ND-MAIN ST SE BELLEVUE PL Wildwood 01ST AVE SE Park STORELAND DR'SE SE 3RD ST SE 02ND AVE SE SHORELAND DR SE STH ST SITE BELLEVUE WAY SE SE 6th 98TH AVE SE Street Open SE 6TH ST SETTHST Space SE 7TH ST HAVE SE SHOREL AND DR.S.C. SE 8TH ST 100TH AVE **Locator Map** 99 THAVE NORTHSIDE RD SE SE 11TH ST (520) DETMILLERIA Chism 97TH PL SE Beach CEDARCRES Park 405 PAPERIDGE LN 1,043 522 The City of Bellevue does not guarante state in the City of Bellevue does not guarante state in the City of Bellevue does not guarante state in the City of Bellevue does not guarante state of Complete. This data is provided on an "as is" basis Scale 1:6,260 Feet SE 13TH LN and disclaims all warranties. Map Generated on: 01/22/2020





August 17, 2020

City of Bellevue Land Use Department 450 110th Ave. NE Bellevue, WA 98004

Attention: Peter Rosen

Re: Meydenbauer Meadow Variance to Maximum Lot Coverage by Structures

Narrative Addressing Variance Criteria (BMC 20.30G.140)

Dear Peter,

Please accept this letter as our Variance Request per BMC 20.30G.140 (Decision Criteria).

This Variance Request is to allow additional lot coverage (3,000 square feet total) for the project site located at 415 102nd Avenue SE, Parcel Number 066600-0400, referred to as Meydenbauer Meadow.

Per the Critical Area Report prepared by Altmann Oliver Associates LLC, the entire site except for the existing primary structure is encumbered by Wetland A, Meydenbauer Creek, and associated buffers. Wetland A meets the criteria for a Category III wetland with five (5) habitat points which requires a 110-foot buffer. The 110-foot buffer extends beyond the subject property. Meydenbauer Creek is considered a Type F stream that requires a 50-foot buffer on developed sites. Per the Bellevue Municipal Code (BMC) definition of Top of Bank, the stream buffer is measured from the edge of the active floodplain. City Staff has directed the Applicant to measure the 50-foot stream buffer from the 10-year floodplain.

The lot coverage calculation for the site, per 20.20.010(13) results in 1,829 square feet (see attached exhibit). The site is more than 90 percent constrained by critical area and critical area buffer; therefore, the site is eligible for a Reasonable Use Exception which permits up to ten percent of the site be disturbed for development (20.25H.200). A Reasonable Use Exception / Critical Areas Land Use Permit is being reviewed by the City of Bellevue concurrent with this Variance Request.

As demonstrated by the Reasonable Use Exception application, ten percent of the site provides up to 5,186 square feet of developable area. This Variance Request is to allow additional lot coverage up to a total of 3,000 square feet so that a reasonable portion of the developable area can be built upon for development consistent with the surrounding multifamily developments in the R-30 Zone. The additional lot coverage will also maintain the character of the existing community. Note that the additional lot coverage within the developable area would not result in any additional critical area or critical area buffer impact as the maximum ten percent of developable area would not be exceeded.

The following provides the required narrative of how the proposal meets the Variance Decision Criteria.

20.30G.140 Decision Criteria

A. General

- 1. The variance will not constitute a grant of special privilege inconsistent with the limitation upon uses of other properties in the vicinity and land use district of the subject property; and
 - This variance for additional lot coverage is not a grant of special privilege. Instead it is a request
 for minimal relief due to the extent of critical areas and associated buffers. The variance will
 permit the site to be developed consistent with the existing multi-family developments
 surrounding the site, and consistent with the intent of the R-30 zoning and the Comprehensive
 Plan.
 - The variance for the additional lot coverage will not result in any additional critical area or buffer impacts, because all development will occur within an area smaller than the 5,186 square feet of developable area allowed by the concurrent Reasonable Use Exception application per BMC 20.25H.200.
 - The lot coverage calculation imposes a hardship on this site because it does not allow use of the stream buffer in the calculation even though the stream buffer is being reduced as a result of the reasonable use exception.
 - The maximum lot coverage calculation results in 1,829 square feet for the site. This Variance Request is for a total lot coverage of 3,000 square feet to allow the site to be developed more consistently with the surrounding land use, which represents an increase of 1,171 square feet from the maximum lot coverage calculation per BMC 20.20.010(13).
 - The site is surrounded by multi-family apartment units consistent with the R-30 zoning. 1,829 square feet of lot coverage is not consistent with the scale of surrounding development and the request is additional lot coverage is the minimum necessary for development consistent with the surrounding properties and in order to maintain the character of this established neighborhood.
- 2. The variance is necessary because of special circumstances relating to the size, shape, topography, location or surroundings of the subject property to provide it with use rights and privileges permitted to other properties in the vicinity and in the land use district of the subject property; and
 - The following table summarizes the special circumstances of the subject property because of the presence of critical areas and associated buffers:

Site Data	Square Feet	Acres	Percentage of Site
Total Site Area:	51,862	1.19	100.0%
Total Critical Area and Critical Area Buffers:	50,577	1.16	97.5%
Buildable Area:	1,285	0.03	2.5%
(Area of existing house footprint)			
Reasonable Use Exception:	5,177	0.12	10.0%
(Maximum 10% of Total Site Area per BMC			
20.25H.200)			(Complies)



Per BMC 20.25H.200, a maximum of 10% of the total site area is developable. The developable area has been designed to impact only the buffer area. The development will not impact Meydenbauer Creek or Wetland A critical areas. The additional lot coverage will not result in additional buffer impacts beyond those permitted by the Reasonable Use Exception.

- As discussed above, the surrounding properties are developed with multi-family apartment units
 consistent with the R-30 zoning. Due to the lot coverage calculation which excludes critical areas
 and critical area stream buffers, the property is limited to 1,829 square feet of lot coverage. This
 limitation on lot coverage is inconsistent with the scale of development in the surrounding
 neighborhood. A variance is necessary to increase the allowable lot coverage to 3,000 square feet
 to provide the property with the same rights as other R-30 zoned properties in the vicinity.
- 3. The granting of the variance will not be materially detrimental to property or improvements in the immediate vicinity of the subject property; and
 - Increasing the allowable lot coverage by 1,171 square feet will not be materially detrimental to property or improvements in the immediate vicinity of the subject property because approval of the variance will permit site development more consistent with the surrounding properties and R-30 zoning. The majority of the surrounding properties are large apartment buildings / complexes. The increased lot coverage will provide for a larger structure normally permitted by the R-30 Zone and anticipated in the Comprehensive Plan. The additional lot coverage permitted by the variance will result in a use and structures that are more compatible with the existing character of the neighborhood.
 - The proposed site design minimizes impacts to existing surrounding uses by consolidating the vehicular access to one curb cut and providing additional separation from the property to the north.
- 4. The variance is not inconsistent with the Comprehensive Plan; and

The Variance Request is consistent with, and substantially implements, the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- The increase in allowable lot coverage is consistent with the Land Use Vision of the Comprehensive Plan to focus growth in denser areas that have infrastructure and services to support density.
- The increase in allowable lot coverage will have no impact on Meydenbauer Creek or Wetland A
 critical areas and will result in no additional impact to critical area buffers than those permitted by
 the Reasonable Use Exception. This is consistent with the Introduction to the Land Use Element
 to 'protect environmentally sensitive areas and maintain the character of established
 neighborhoods', while at the same time meeting the additional housing needs of the community.
- Per the Comprehensive Plans 'Today's Conditions', future growth is largely limited to the
 redevelopment of existing areas. The project is to redevelop a single-family residence that has
 reached the end of its functional life. Approval of the variance will allow for a modest increase in
 lot coverage so that the future scale of construction on this site is consistent with the R-30 zoning
 while maintaining the character of the neighborhood.
- Per the Comprehensive Plans 'Tomorrow's Projections', the variance requests additional lot coverage for the site which has infrastructure and zoning in place to support growth within the planning time period.



- Additional lot coverage on this site, meets the 'Challenges and Opportunities' Integration of Land
 Use and Transportation by providing housing near the Downtown area. The proximity of shopping
 and transportation nearby encourages walking, biking, and transit use, reducing congestion on the
 streets and supporting vibrant and healthy communities.
- The additional lot coverage meets the Comprehensive Plans Land Use Strategy as it:
 - Directs growth to an area designated for compact development with a full range of transportation options nearby;
 - Enhances the health and vitality of the existing neighborhood by providing additional housing that maintains the character of the neighborhood;
 - Provides development at a scale more consistent with the neighborhood while preserving critical areas as no impact to Meydenbauer Creek or Wetland A critical areas will result and no additional impact to critical area buffers will occur other than those permitted by the Reasonable Use Exception.
- The Comprehensive Plan, Land Use Plan Residential Areas includes the major objective to maintain
 the vitality, quality, and character of Bellevue's multifamily neighborhoods. Approval of this
 Variance Request will ensure that infill development is added to the neighborhood in a way which
 is compatible in use and scale with the existing neighborhood of multifamily units.
- Success of the Land Use Plan includes directing growth to appropriate areas. Approval of the Variance Request provides a modest amount of additional lot coverage for a site in the R-30 Zone limited to 1,829 square feet of lot coverage. An additional 1,171 square feet of lot coverage is appropriate for this site in order to provide housing at a scale more consistent with the surrounding multifamily apartment units, especially when considering that no critical area impact or additional buffer impact is proposed.

In addition to compliance with the Comprehensive Plan as detailed above, this Variance Request meets the Goals and Policies of the Comprehensive Plan as follows:

- LU-1 1. The increased lot coverage directs growth to an area designated for compact development and is in close proximity to a full range of transportation options.
 - 2. Additional lot coverage approved for this project enhances the health and vitality of this multifamily residential neighborhood by providing growth that maintains the scale and character of the neighborhood.
- LU-2 The proposed site development will preserve the tree canopy on 90% of the site. The
 mitigation plan proposes enhancement of the Wetland A buffer to increase the tree canopy from
 its existing condition.
- LU-5 Additional lot coverage assists the City with accommodating anticipated growth targets.
- LU-6 The variance to allow 1,171 additional square feet of lot coverage, for a total of 3,000 square feet, will allow the residential development to be at more of a scale consistent with that permitted in the MH-F land use designation and the R-30 Zone. The increased lot coverage will not result in critical area impacts or additional buffer impacts beyond that permitted by the Reasonable Use Exception.
- LU-9 Additional lot coverage makes it possible for more people to live closer to where they work since the site is adjacent to the Downtown area which is a regional center and is expected to accommodate about half of the city's housing and job growth per the Comprehensive Plan.



- LU-15 The variance to allow additional lot coverage increases the housing choices that result from redevelopment of the property consistent with the MH-F land use designation.
- LU-29 Approval of the increased lot coverage will permit the site to be developed more fitting for the neighborhood, helping to maintain the existing scale and character.
- LU-33 The variance to allow additional lot coverage preserves the key natural features of Meydenbauer Creek and Wetland A. The increased lot coverage will not result in critical area impacts or additional buffer impacts beyond that permitted by the Reasonable Use Exception.
- LU-35 Redevelopment of the site with increased lot coverage provides additional living capacity within close proximity to downtown which promotes walking in order to increase public health.
- EN-1 The variance to allow additional lot coverage balances the protection of Meydenbauer Creek and Wetland A critical areas with the obligation of the City to meet its growth targets and to focus compact development growth in areas that can support it.
- EN-12 The proposed site development will preserve the tree canopy on 90% of the site. The
 mitigation plan proposes enhancement of the Wetland A buffer to increase the tree canopy from
 its existing condition.
- EN-19 The proposed site development will preserve the open surface water systems of Meydenbauer Creek and Wetland A. Implementation of the proposed mitigation plan will remove invasive plants and enhance Wetland A buffer and Meydenbauer Creek buffer, which will improve the degraded condition and improve the function and values of the wetland and creek.
- EN-82 The Critical Area Report and Mitigation Plan prepared by Altman Oliver Associates uses a
 science-based approach to create a site-specific development plan that will achieve an equal or
 better result for the functions of Meydenbauer Creek and Wetland A. The additional lot coverage
 will have no impact than that proposed by the Reasonable Use Exception as there is no request to
 increase permitted impervious surface or hard surface lot coverage.
- EN-84 The Mitigation Plan uses science-based mitigation for the impacts to the Wetland A buffers. The proposed buffer enhancement will protect the overall critical area functions of Meydenbauer Creek and Wetland A.
- EN-86 The proposed site design locates all development, including the additional lot coverage in the least sensitive area of the property. The increased lot coverage will not result in critical area impacts or additional buffer impact beyond that permitted by the Reasonable Use Exception.

Thank you in advance for your review of our Variance Request. Please let us know if you need additional information to complete your review.

Sincerely,

Kevin Cleary | Goldsmith Engineering

Entitlement Project Manager | 425.462.1080 | kcleary@goldsmithengineering.com

Attachment: Lot coverage calculation Exhibit



